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Training and News for the Seattle Auxiliary Communication Service

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## Bill Dockstader, W7LSK Receives Award

Citizens Certificate of Appreciation Given

By Linda Dockstader, K7LSK

On Thursday, August 14, 2003 the Police Department held a Citizens Certificate of Appreciation Awards Ceremony in the Dome room of the Arctic Building in downtown Seattle. Our own Bill Dockstader, W7LSK, was one of the citizens who was recognized by Police Chief Gill Kerklikowske and by the Mayor's office for his efforts on the City's behalf.

Bill received a certificate of appreciation and 'Ham' radio received a 'plug' as Seattle ACS was described in detail to all the attendees. Director of Seattle Emergency Management Jim Mullen was there to applaud Bill and ACS. — — — — —



Bill Dockstader, W7LSK Receives Award

*Photo by Jim Mullen*

*Please see also From EOC—Ed.*

## QRV?

QRV? = "Are you prepared?"

*QRV? is the Newsletter of the Seattle  
Auxiliary Communication Service*

City of Seattle  
Emergency Management

**ACS Net & Disaster Coordination**  
Weekly Net, Mondays at 7:00 p.m.  
146.96 MHz

**ACS Primary Message Channels**  
441.80 MHz (tone 141.3 Hz)  
443.00 MHz (tone 141.3 Hz)  
443.65 MHz (tone 141.3 Hz)

**ACS 6 Meter Frequency**  
53.250 MHz (tone 100 Hz)

**ACS Website**  
[www.cityofseattle.org/eoc/acs](http://www.cityofseattle.org/eoc/acs)

**State & County Nets**  
Washington State Emergency  
Mondays at 6:30 p.m.  
Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.  
3.985 MHz

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King County ARES  
Sundays at 8:00 p.m.  
146.82 MHz (tone 103.5)

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Please direct letters, articles, and  
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## From the Editor

### North Stars

I know, I know! There's only one North Star. And no, you didn't catch a misprint although those pesky things often seem to find their way into *QRV?*. I *want* to comment on North Stars. That's stars. Plural. Read on and I'll try to explain.

We're now starting the seventh year of publication of *QRV?* and as you faithful readers may remember, this is the traditional time of the year when your Editor takes a moment to pause and reflect on his view of ACS, where we are, where we've been, and most importantly where we're going.

This year I'm going to begin on a personal note. Over the summer I've found that my "connects" with ACS have become much less frequent than I'd like them to be. Believe me, I'm anything but indifferent to ACS. Somehow my personal circumstances have aligned themselves so as to interfere with ACS this summer. Circumstances such as long-standing family commitments during field day, more travel this summer including many trips far enough from town to get in the way of check in on Monday evenings, and on and on and on.

You know how it goes, maybe you've had the same thing happen to you. From time

See **Editor**, Page 3

## From the EOC

By Jim Mullen, Director  
Seattle Emergency  
Management

It's late summer, and usually there is no more difficult time to find things to write about. People are on vacation; people are getting ready for school to resume; and the big issues probably can wait for a few weeks.

Don't worry. I still have two items to call to your attention. First, the Seattle Police Department's Citizen Recognition Program was held this month. ACS member and EOC Team Coordinator Bill Dockstader was one of the recipients of the award. In receiving the award, it is clear that Bill is a fine representative among the many people that make up ACS. His devotion to the EOC during activations has been noted by more than merely the Emergency Management staff that nominated him. It was a nice event, and I was proud to be there with Bill and his wife Linda to see him accept the award.

The other matter is the post TOPOFF 2 environment in which we find ourselves. Unlike many after action reports, it is unlikely that much more than a summary will be released for general consumption. Since the subject is terrorism, and after action reports typically detail what went right and what went

See **EOC**, Page 4

Editor, from page 2

to time you also may have seen your participation in ACS become less frequent because of work, or family, or life (you name it) experiences.

Well, this brings me to one of the North Stars. Although we occasionally drift in and out of regular ACS check-ins and other activities we remain committed to service as auxiliary communicators in time of need. That commitment is our North Star. It guides our orientation even when familiar landmarks (such as ACS nets, meetings, etc.) are temporarily unseen. We remain committed to our mission and ready to serve as needed.

Is regular participation in ACS important? Of course it is. But during those times when that regular participation becomes impossible it's important to keep our ACS mission "North Star" always in mind.

Now we're ready to talk about some of those other North Stars I mentioned earlier. It is worth noting that *people* can also serve as North Stars insofar as they always seem to be there guiding us toward fulfilling our mission. Okay, you might want to call them the Big Dipper >grin< but I prefer to think of them as North Stars! Anyway, back to my point and at the risk of leaving important people out, let me take this opportunity to name a few of those who your Editor sees as North Stars:

## Field Day 2003

By  
Peter Smith, N7BYP

This year it was decided that the Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) would scale back its participation in Field Day 2003 by operating for one day, Saturday, June 28, from 11:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Two high frequency (HF) stations were set up, one in an open tent, the other in the back of a pickup truck based camper. The Queen Anne Community Center was selected as the site where operations would occur.

Accordingly, on the morning of June 28<sup>th</sup>, ACS members George Boswell (K7YHB), Bill Dockstader (W7LSK), Bill Ehler (K7NZV), John Lever (AC7UQ), Al Menzl (KD7UYC), and Mark Sheppard (N7LYE), arrived at the community center and proceeded to set up equipment in the area just to the south and west of the community center buildings.

Operations started at 11:00 a.m. and proceeded through the day, ending at 8:00 p.m. Joining the group during the day were Dave Cook (W7DWC) and Sandy Cook (KD7EEC). Band conditions were not good on Saturday and the ACS team encountered difficulty in establishing contact with other stations. Nevertheless, all had a good time and considered the day a success all things considered.

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George Boswell (K7YHB) operating in Field Day Tent

Photo by Pete Smith N7BYP

See Editor, Page 4

**EOC**, from page 2

wrong, it really is best to handle major adjustments in house. That hasn't prevented the City's responders from carefully reviewing the results of the exercise, recommending corrective actions when necessary, and working together to resolve issues.

I can tell you that our EOC has emerged with some very fine assessments from the objective evaluators who observed our efforts. Our communications capabilities and our ability to work closely together for extended periods of time were also highly rated. Given that "every communication system notionally was allowed to

work" (we were testing other things this time) the observers really did not get to see our ace in the hole - the ACS team - in action. But, you have been tested for real, and continue to be one of the highlights for us in terms of dedication and performance. — — — — —

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Contribute to QRV?  
Who Me?

Yes, you! Your Editor is always looking for people willing to write articles, or otherwise contribute to QRV?. Suggestions are always welcome!

**Editor**, from page 3

Mark Sheppard (N7LYE), Bill Dockstader (W7LSK), Bill Ehler (K7NZV), Denise Croysdill (EOC), Steve Marten (EOC), and Jim Mullen (EOC).

I could name others. At times like this I have to remember that my column does have space limits so I'll stop there with the suggestion that you review the list of North Stars that have guided you throughout your experience with ACS. If you have the time and inclination, send them an email or snail-mail message of thanks. I'm sure they'll appreciate it and who knows, you may be the recipient of a few messages yourself! — — — — —

**QRV?** - Seattle ACS

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